

**UK**  
UNIVERSITY OF  
**KENTUCKY**  
College of Nursing

Student Services  
Chandler Medical Center  
309 CON Building  
Lexington, KY 40536-0232

859 323-5108  
fax 859 323-1057

[www.uky.edu/nursing](http://www.uky.edu/nursing)

February 14, 2008

TO: Heidi Anderson, Chair  
Health Care Colleges Council

FROM: Jane M. Kirschling, Dean



RE: Proposed change in admission requirements

The College of Nursing is requesting that the process for admitting freshmen be adjusted to offer a guarantee of admission to professional standing. Attached please find a proposed revision to Senate Regulation 4.2.2.1 which governs admission to the College of Nursing.

Admission to nursing programs across the country is competitive and most commonly happens at the sophomore or junior year, after completion of pre-requisite courses. Prospective students and parents express much interest in having a guarantee of admission to the professional level instead of spending a year (or more) taking pre-requisites and hoping for admission. We have patterned this application process after several of the nursing benchmark institutions. We believe that we will be able to retain more of the top freshman applicants to the University of Kentucky

If you have questions, feel free to contact Pat Burkhart, Director of the Undergraduate Program (3-6253 or [pvburk2@email.uky.edu](mailto:pvburk2@email.uky.edu)) or me (3-6533 or [janek@email.uky.edu](mailto:janek@email.uky.edu)).

We request that this be approved for the beginning of the 2008-9 Admission cycle, for students entering in fall 2009.

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**4.2.2.1 Admission to College of Nursing** [US:4/12/82; US:3/10/86; US:10/14/91; US: 2/13/95; US 4/10/00]  
The College of Nursing (CON) enrollment will be composed of four-year students, associate degree nursing graduates and diploma nursing school graduates. Admission to the University does not guarantee admission to the College of Nursing. Preference will be given to Kentucky residents.

Applicants must be in a state of good health enabling them to carry out the functions of the professional nurse. Routinely, each student will be required to obtain a rubella and rubeola titers, and have an annual tuberculin test or chest x-ray.

Progression to upper division courses is regulated so that the total number of full time equivalents at the beginning of the junior year does not exceed 120. Admission criteria for four types of students are presented below:

**A. Criteria for Admission to the 4-year BSN Program Include:** [US 4/13/98; US 4/10/06]

**1. Freshman Student**

Students will be admitted as freshman to a prenursing curriculum based on the following criteria:

- (a) high school grade point average of 2.5 or above on a 4.0 scale
  - (b) meeting criteria for selective admission to the University of Kentucky as established by Rule 4.2.1.1
- 2.** Selection for admission to the nursing curriculum will occur at the sophomore level for all students based on the following criteria:
- (a) a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5;
  - (b) a grade of "C" or better in all required prenursing courses;
  - (c) completion of an approved Medicaid Nurse Aid training program.

In addition, any or all of the following information may be evaluated as part of the admission application:

- (d) a writing exercise based on criteria established by the CON;
- (e) two letters of reference from individuals who can assess potential for success (e.g. teacher, employer);
- (f) an interview with members of the Admissions and Progression Committee, or their designees.

**3. Early Admission**

Early provisional admission to the Professional Nursing Curriculum will be granted to graduating high school seniors who meet the criteria of a high school gpa of 3.5 or higher and an ACT composite of 26 or higher (or the equivalent SAT combined score) providing students maintain a 3.0 gpa in each semester during the freshman year and a 2.75 gpa in the prerequisite science courses. Students who meet these requirements are guaranteed Early Admission in either the fall or spring of sophomore year to the Professional Nursing Curriculum. Students not meeting those requirements will be grouped with other applicants who are considered for admission after completion of the prerequisites.

**B. Criteria for Admission to the 4-year BSN Program for Transfer Students Include:** [US: 4/13/98; US 4/10/00; US 4/10/06]

1. for transfer students with less than 24 hours of college credit, meeting the criteria for entering freshman and a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on all college work attempted as computed by the Office of Admissions;
2. for transfer students with more than 24 hours of college credit, maintaining a grade point average of 2.5 on all college work attempted as computed by the Office of Admissions;
3. grades of "C" or better in all courses required for CON curriculum;

In addition, any or all of the following may be requested as part of the application:

4. a writing exercise based on criteria established by the CON;
5. two letters of reference from individuals who can assess potential for success (e.g., teacher, employer, etc.); and
6. completion of an approved Medicaid Nurse Aid training program;
7. an interview with members of the Admission and Progression Committee or their designee.

**C. Students will be eligible to apply for readmission the College of Nursing** after suspension from the College when they meet criteria as stated in Section B 1 and 2 of this policy.

**D. A student who is a registered nurse will be considered for admission to upper division courses in the nursing program based on the following criteria:**

1. The applicant must be a registered nurse licensed to practice in Kentucky;
2. an Associate Degree in Nursing from a college accredited by one of the six regional academic accrediting associations with a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a scale of 4.0 on all course work attempted as computed by the Office of Admissions.\*
3. a statement of academic and professional goals;
4. a letter of reference from a supervisor;
5. an interview with members of the Admission and Progression Committee or their designee.

\*The registered nurse who is a graduate of a diploma program will be considered for admission after earning a minimum of 60 college credits which include:

English	6 semester credits
Natural Sciences	6 semester credits
Social Sciences	6 semester credits
Humanities	6 semester credits
Nursing <sup>o</sup>	28 semester credits

<sup>o</sup>Nursing credits may be earned from regionally accredited colleges by taking the courses or by taking the ACT-PEP tests. It is strongly recommended that applicants contact the Office of Student Services in the College of Nursing regarding the approved nursing ACT-PEP credits. All nursing courses taken in associate degree or diploma programs are considered lower division courses and are not equivalent to upper division courses in this program. The applicant must have at least a GPA of 2.5 on a scale of 4.0 on all college course work attempted as computed by the Office of Admissions, and must have satisfactorily completed the ACT-PEP tests which establish the nursing credits.

The application deadline for admission to the Nursing program for all categories of student is March 1st. [SC: 4/24/95; US 4/10/00; SC: 10/30/06]

**University of Kentucky Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee**

From: Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (Joe Sottile (Chair), Lee Ann Jung, Alan Nadel, Peggy Piascik, Suzanne Segerstrom, Glenn Telling, Don Witt, ex officio, Kumble Subbaswamy, ex officio)

To: Sheila Brothers, Office of the Senate Council

Date: October 28, 2008

The following proposal has been reviewed and approved by the University Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee.

**Early Admission to Nursing**

Proposal attached

October 23, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Randall, Senate Council Chair

FROM: Kumble Subbaswamy, Provost

SUBJECT: Early Admissions Proposal  
College of Nursing

The proposal for an early provisional admission policy sent forward by the College of Nursing presents an illustrative case of the delicate interplay between two UK touchstones – its dual status as a land grant and flagship institution. Access is the watchword of a land grant institution, and the College of Nursing presents palpable proof of its commitment to opportunity. By implementing an innovative set of infrastructural and pedagogic changes, and with an infusion of new resources, the College of Nursing has doubled its enrollment capacity. Against the background of its effort to address issues of access and opportunity, and the attendant imperative to alleviate the acute shortage of nurses in Kentucky and elsewhere, the College of Nursing must also maintain its stature in Kentucky as the premier baccalaureate program in nursing.

To anchor its preeminent role in nursing education, both locally and nationally, the College of Nursing must attract the most academically talented and accomplished high school students. Reputation alone won't suffice. The University of Louisville has already implemented an early admission policy in its baccalaureate nursing program and there is increasing evidence that some of the most talented high school students, lured by the "guarantee" of a place in the upper-division nursing program, have opted to attend UofL over UK. We need to respond, but in a manner that appropriately balances access and selectivity.

I believe the proposal from Nursing accomplishes this balancing act. The proposed standards in the early admission policy has been calibrated to yield somewhere between 25-40% of the first-year "provisional" cohort. (Over time the college will hone its ability to predict more precisely the size of this cohort.) With more than half of its upper-division allocation still uncommitted after the new admissions policy is implemented, the college will continue to offer access for two other pools of prospective students – the accomplished LPN and the "late bloomer," the less successful high school student whose college performance in the pre-major nursing program demonstrates a capacity for superior academic achievement.

The case for Nursing's proposal is compelling and immediate. Furthermore, the continuation of its early provisional admission policy (the college received a tentative nod from the Senate Council to implement the policy for the Fall 2008 first-year class, pending the outcome of the current review process) will provide a heuristic laboratory in which to study the efficacy and fairness of such a policy. I recommend wholeheartedly for the formal approval of an early provisional admission policy in the undergraduate BSN program in the College of Nursing.